

Application No.: 09/826,784

Docket No.: JCLA6095

REMARKSPresent Status of the Application

The Office Action allowed claims 2-12 and 14-20. Further, the Office Action rejected claim 21 and objected claims 22-27. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Haren et al. (US No. 6,192,442). The Office Action objected claims 22-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended the specification to clarify the filing date of the provisional application. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 2-12, 14-20 and 22-27 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

First of all, the Specification is amended to show a correct filing date of a provisional application (provisional application serial no. 60/194,848) of the present application. The correct filing date of the provisional application is April 5, 2000 instead of April 5, 2001.

Secondly, claims 22-27 are rewritten in the form including all of the limitations of original claim 21, and therefore should be patentable over the cited references.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 2, 8, 14, and 22 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 3-7, 9-12, 15-20 and 23-27 patently define over the prior art as well.

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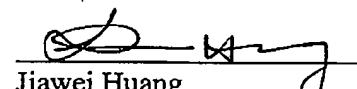
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**CONCLUSION**

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 2-12, 14-20 and 22-27 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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